

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: NETHERLANDS DRAFT RESOLUTION

"COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS WITH ORGANIZATIONS
OUTSIDE THE UN SYSTEM" (ITEM 10)

1. SUMMARY. THE SUBJECT DUTCH RESOLUTION HAS NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY INTRODUCED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. IT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO A SECTION OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE REPORT, AND WILL BE INTERPRETED AS HAVING NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS. THE NGO GROUP CONTEMPLATED WOULD BE COMPOSED OF 15 MEMBERS AND MEET TWICE A YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SUBJECT RES, CIRCULATED AS DOCUMENT E/AC.66/L.1, IS VIEWED BY THE DUTCH AS AN ELABORATION OF ANNEX I SECTION 9 OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE REPORT. (THIS LANGUAGE IS ALSO INCLUDED VERBATIM IN THE TEXT OF THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL AS PARAGRAPH 38.) IT IS ALSO RELATED TO GA RES 31/114 CONCERNING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UN AND NGOS.

3. THE DUTCH WHEN THEY INTRODUCE THE RESOLUTION IN THE PLENARY OF THE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS COMMITTEE WILL INDICATE THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE RES HAS NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS, AND THIS WILL BE EXPLAINED BY THE SECRETARIAT;

B) THEY CONTEMPLATE A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN PEOPLE AND
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WOULD MEET NO MORE THAN TWICE A YEAR;

C) THEY VIEW THIS PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT AS FITTING INTO ANY KIND OF SOLUTION ON FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

4. THIS PROPOSAL REFLECTS THE LONG HELD INTEREST OF THE NGOS IN HUMAN SETTLEMENT MATTERS. AT THE TIME OF THE UN-SPONSORED HABITAT CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER, THERE WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY HELD

THE NGO-SPONSOED "HABITAT FORUM." THDEAYIAS CLOSELY LINKED TO THE UN CONFERENCE. (FOR EXAMPLE, THE USDEL TO THE UN CONFERENCE REGULARLY HELD BRIEFINGS AT THE NGO CONFERENCE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FORUM SPOKE AND PRESENTED NGO POSITIONS TO THE UN CONFERENCE. THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE NGOS WAS A DUTCHMAN.) THUS BOTH NGOS AND GOVERNMENTS HAD, AND CONTINUE TO HAVE, INTEREST IN NGO PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY EFFORTS IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

5. THE PROPOSAL ITSELF REQUESTS THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CREATE THE NGO CONSULTATIVE GROUP, SCHEDULE ITS WORK AND REPORT TO THE 33 UNGA ON PROGRESS. WE WOULD SEE NO PROBLEM IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH MACHINERY, BUT WOULD CONSIDER IT MORE RATIONAL TO HAVE IT ESTABLISHED, BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, AND INCORPORATE IT IN THE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION, ASSUMING THE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION IS FINALLY APPROVED. IN INFORMAL EXPLORATORY TALKS THE DUTCH, HOWEVER, INDICATE THEY WISH TO KEEP IT SEPARATE FROM THE CONSENSUS TEXT.

6. WE WOULD RECOMMEND SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION, AND IF IT CAN BE MODIFIED TO ADEQUATELY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE COMPROMISE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION, TO COONSIDER CO-SPONSORSHIP. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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